A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

By all accounts, our preps had a great first week at school. They met with their buddies, and this morning came to their first assembly. They seem to have begun the settling in process really well. Please don’t be too concerned if your child is still reluctant to leave you in the morning or, as tough as it may be on parents, if your child is crying when you drop them off. These are quite normal reactions when beginning school. If you are concerned, please have a conversation with your child’s classroom teacher. You may like to have the conversation at the upcoming ‘Coffee and Chat’ sessions where the prep teachers hope to make an appointment with each of you in the coming weeks to see how your child has settled in.

You will notice in the ‘dates to remember’ column to the right that each learning community will be holding information nights next week. They have been brought forward based on feedback from parents last year. This feedback and the resultant action is a great example of parents and school staff supporting each other. Please note the Middles and Senior dates have swapped from what was in last week’s newsletter. The dates on the right of this page are accurate. We hope to see as many of you there as possible. For the Preps, Juniors and Seniors, the nights commence at 6:30pm and run through until 7:30—8:00pm depending on questions. The Middles will commence at 6:00pm as theirs also contains information regarding the 1:1 netbook program.

Speaking of netbooks, the roll-out of the these to our grade three students, and to students who have joined us this year in grades 4, 5 and 6 has been further delayed due to unforeseen difficulties beyond our control. This is a frustrating situation for all, however we are trying to get them to the students as soon as possible. We will of course adjust the term 2 payment amount to reflect the delay, and we appreciate your patience whilst we sort this issue out.

Congratulations to the 28 students who have been selected to represent our school at the upcoming swimming sports. Mr Maisey has organised training for the squad with notes going out today. Good luck to all involved and remember that trying your best is the aim of the game; if you happen to receive a ribbon consider that a bonus for hard work. Thank you to the parents who have agreed to assist on the day.

With our student population growing, so too does the issue of parking. We will again consider opening the Basil Street gates each afternoon if we have an indication that sufficient parents would take up this option. It is not a viable option for one or two families, but it certainly is if there is a dozen or more. If you would make use of these gates on a regular basis please let Deidre or Kelly in the office know either in person or by return email.

On the second Monday of every term, homework is sent home. Homework is compulsory at Newport Gardens for all students. The homework expectations for our students are not onerous, and are designed to be engaging and rewarding for students. Please support the school by ensuring your child’s homework is completed on time. Electronic copies of each learning community’s matrix will shortly be available on the school’s website.

Simon McGlade
Principal
STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

GROWTH: Marcus Osman
IMPROVEMENT: Darby Hurlston & Carter Fincke
INCLUSION: Juliet Basile, Emily Sturzaker, Caitlin Griffin, Bella Bunny, Amy Polson, Makayla Smith, Athena Koulis, Maxine Benjamin, David Leinert, Adam King, Golbar Mir Hosseine & Ellie Cox.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to the following:

Oliver De Blank, Liam Altus and Troy Hotere-Moana

We hope you all have a wonderful day.

LUNCH ORDERS

REMINDER TO ALL PARENTS THAT LUNCH ORDERS STARTED BACK THIS WEEK.

LUNCH ORDRS DAYS ARE - MONDAY, TUESDAY WEDNESDAY ONLY
EVERY DAY COUNTS

Primary School Attendance

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it’s important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It’s vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It’s vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

Day off – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice. If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

Further information

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:

Dear Parent’s,
Just a reminder that all book club orders are due back Monday 16th February.
**NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
Thank You

---

**Introducing Scholastic Book Clubs LOOP for Parents**

**LOOP** is the NEW Scholastic Book Clubs Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for Parents.

If you want to pay by credit card for your online Book Club order, our new platform makes it easy! It eliminates the need for paper order forms plus your online order is submitted to the school safe and sound.

Log-in to [www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP](http://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP) or download our NEW iPhone and iPad app from the App Store!

- For a quick start, just click on ORDER in the top menu or REGISTER first to save your details for next time
- Select your school and your child’s class
- Add your child’s first name and last initial (so the school knows who the book is for)
- Enter the item number from the Book Club brochure
- You can order for multiple children at once if they attend the same school
- All orders are linked directly to the school for submission to Scholastic. Books will still be delivered to your child’s classroom if you order by the close date
- There’s no need to return paper order forms or payment receipt details to your school!

TERM DATES FOR 2015

TERM 1 - Grade 1 - 6 start back 29th January - 27th March
Prep Students start back 4th February - 27th March

TERM 2 - 13th April - 26th June

TERM 3 - 13th July - 18th September

TERM 4 - 5th October - 18th December

STUDENT BANKING

Dear Parents,

Please Note that the Student Banking has resumed.
Please remember Student Banking is on Wednesdays only.

Thank You

CommonwealthBank

BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL CARE

OSTHCLUB NEWS THIS WEEK

Monday to Friday 7:00 - 9am / 3:00 - 6pm. If you would like to make a booking or would like any information on the After School Care Program please do not hesitate to call 0411 656 074

This Week’s Activities – PET & VALENTINE WEEK 2(9-13 FEB 2015)

For more information, please contact Artee at Newport Oshclub on 0411 656 074 or book on www.oshclub.com.au

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before Care activities</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Our Pets</td>
<td>Pets Collar</td>
<td>Animal Finger Painting</td>
<td>Animal Masks</td>
<td>Valentine’s Day Card</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>After Care activities</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who takes care of our pets?/Lego</td>
<td>Recycle Crafts/ Doll’s house</td>
<td>Paper planes for kids/ Origami Mural</td>
<td>Teddy Bear Picnic/ Make a train track</td>
<td>Make your own costume/Boardgames</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ship sharks shore</td>
<td>Octopus</td>
<td>Bob star Freeze</td>
<td>Ready set Roar/Fruit salad</td>
<td>Free Play</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A RED Parents Club Communication Box has been set up across from the main office; please feel free to use this as a way of communicating with us.

WELCOME back to all of the families at Newport Gardens Primary School, we hope you had a relaxing break. An especially warm welcome to the new families to our school, we hope that you and your children are settling into our community effortlessly. If you have any questions regarding Parents Club please do not hesitate to get in touch with a member of the executive team, (all except Karina, as she and her family have re located to Sydney).

AGM—The Annual general Meeting for parents club will be held next Monday February 16th straight after assembly, most likely in the hall. This is an opportunity to learn more about the Parents Club and the role that we have at the school, as well as vote in your Executive Committee for 2015. There is a .50cent fee to make a vote, so be sure to bring some spare change. Hope to see as many of you there as possible.

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 9th

FRESH FRUIT FRIDAY
Friday February 13th – Parents needed to chop and peel fruit and veg
9am, The Kitchen by the Hall

LIBRARY SHELVING –
Friday February 13th - Teacher Task boxes and Book Shelving –
2:30-3pm, in the Library
Help your child ACHIEVE!

One way to help your child achieve at school is to work together with your child’s teacher. The parent-teacher partnership takes work from both sides to become a reality. Here are some ideas that will help.

1. Know what your child’s teacher is trying to achieve
   Like children, every teacher is different with their own specific expectations, goals and interests. Get to know your child’s teacher and gain an understanding of their approach and aspirations for your child’s class.

2. Keep your expectations reasonable and positive
   If your expectations are too high your teacher may give up. Too low and they will meet them! The trick is to keep your aspirations for your child in line with their ability and their interests. Also be realistic about what your child’s school can deliver. Sometimes our expectations of schools are not in line with their capabilities or their roles.

3. Support your teacher’s expectations & activities at home
   One practical way of supporting your child is to take a real interest in their home-based learning tasks and follow the guidelines laid out by teachers.

4. Send kids to school ready to learn and on time
   Maximise your child’s chances of success by sending them to school in a good frame of mind, with plenty of sleep and a good breakfast. Also make sure they get to school on time. It’s estimated that many kids miss up to two weeks of school a year when they are routinely late by just five minutes a day.

5. Inform teachers of your child’s challenges and changes
   Life’s not always smooth sailing for kids. Family circumstances can change. Friends move away. Illness happens. These changes affect learning. Make sure you keep your child’s teacher up-to-date with significant changes or difficulties your child experiences, so he or she can accommodate their emotional and learning needs at school.

6. Skill children to work with others
   Schools are social places requiring children to work and play with each other much of the time. Teaching manners to kids, as well as encouraging them to share their time, space and things with others are practical ways to help kids with their social skills. Talk through any social challenges they may have, helping them develop their own strategies to get on with others.

7. Respectfully seek joint solutions to problems and difficulties
   Resist the temptation to solve all your children’s problems or think you have the only solution. Most learning and social problems can be resolved when teachers and parents work together in the best interests of the child.

8. Participate in class & school activities
   There is a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent involvement in a child’s schooling and their educational success. Quite simply, if you want your child to improve his learning then take an interest in his learning, attend as many school functions as you can, and follow the lead provided by your child’s teacher. This simple strategy will have a massive, long-term impact.

9. Trust your teacher’s knowledge, professionalism and experience
   Your child’s teachers are your greatest allies. Their training, their experience around kids, and their objective professionalism puts them in a strong position to make judgement calls about your child.

10. Talk up what happens at school
    Your child will take their cues from you about how they see their school. If you want your child to value learning, and enjoy their time at school then you need to support your school and make sure he or she hears positive messages about learning, teachers and the school itself. You can set a strong educational agenda at home by talking up your school.

This type of 10-point plan is easy to read but hard to put into practice, particularly when you get busy or your child has significant difficulties. Choose two or three ideas from this list to really focus on in the coming year and you’ll find that the rest will fall into place. Good luck and nurture the partnerships you have with your child’s teachers.